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thing dirty and diseased that it is no wonder they are carriers of disease, parasites, and plague infection.

\*            \*            \*            \*            \*            \*

Plague is primarily a disease of the rat. It is communicated from the plague-stricken rat to other rats and from rats to man by means of fleas, as the principal agent, and it has been determined many times that handling a rat that has been dead of plague only a few hours gives the infection almost instantly. Two small boys, while playing in an unused cellar, found the body of a dead rat. The corpse was buried with unusual funeral honors. In 48 hours both were ill with bubonic plague. A laborer finding a sick rat on the wharf picked it up with the naked hand and threw it into the bay. He was seized three days later with plague. But the flea is the chief inoculator. Fleas abandon a rat dead of plague and go in search of living beings who still have warm blood circulating in their veins. Biting man, they inoculate into him the living virus which starts the disease.

Since plague is a disease due to rats and rat fleas and not to filth or dirty habits, there is only one thing to do to avoid plague—eradicate the rat. This can be done by making war on them with traps, poison, and starvation and by “rat proofing” against them; that is, by building them out. As a result of the Chinatown plague epidemic in 1907, so efficient was the rat-proof construction that followed that rats and plague were entirely “built out” of that part of the city.

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## COMPENSATION FOR OCCUPATIONAL DISEASES.

### PROVISIONS THEREFOR RECENTLY ENACTED IN ONTARIO, CANADA.

There would seem to be no good reason why a workman should not be compensated for physical injury produced by disease caused by his employment as well as for injuries due to accidents. In this connection the law enacted by the Province of Ontario, Canada, May 1, 1914 (4 Geo. V, chap. 25), is of interest for the reason that it not only provides for compensation in case of accidents but makes specific provision for compensation for industrial or occupational disease contracted in the course of the workman's employment.

The following are the sections of the act referring to this subject:

100. (1) Where a workman suffers from an industrial disease and is thereby disabled from earning full wages at the work at which he was employed or his death is caused by an industrial disease and the disease is due to the nature of any employment in which he was engaged at any time within 12 months previous to the date of his disablement, whether under one or more employments, the workman or his dependants shall be entitled to compensation as if the disease were a personal injury by accident, and the disablement were the happening of the accident, subject to the modifications hereinafter mentioned, unless at the time of entering into the employment he had willfully and falsely represented himself in writing as not having previously suffered from the disease.

(2) Where the compensation is payable by an employer individually it shall be payable by the employer who last employed the workman during such 12 months in the employment to the nature of which the disease was due.

(3) The workman or his dependants if so required shall furnish the employer mentioned in the next preceding subsection with such information as to the names and addresses of all the other employers by whom he was employed in the employment to the nature of which the disease was due during such 12 months as such workman or his dependants may possess; and if such information is not furnished or is not sufficient to enable that employer to take the proceedings mentioned in subsection 4; that employer upon proving that the disease was not contracted while the workman was in his employment shall not be liable to pay compensation.

(4) If that employer alleges that the disease was in fact contracted while the workman was in the employment of some other employer, he may bring such employer before the board; and if the allegation is proved, that other employer shall be the employer by whom the compensation shall be paid.

(5) If the disease is of such a nature as to be contracted by a gradual process, any other employers who during such 12 months employed the workman in the employment to the nature of which the disease was due shall be liable to make to the employer by whom the compensation is payable such contributions as the board may determine to be just.

(6) The amount of the compensation shall be fixed with reference to the earnings of the workman under the employer by whom the compensation is payable and the notice provided for by section 20<sup>1</sup> shall be given to the employer who last employed the workman during such 12 months in the employment to the nature of which the disease was due and the notice may be given notwithstanding that the workman has voluntarily left the employment.

(7) If the workman at or immediately before the date of the disablement was employed in any process mentioned in the second column of schedule 3 and the disease contracted is the disease in the first column of the schedule set opposite to the description of the process the disease shall be deemed to have been due to the nature of that employment unless the contrary is proved.

(8) Nothing in this section shall affect the right of a workman to compensation in respect of a disease to which this section does not apply if the disease is the result of an injury in respect of which he is entitled to compensation under this part.

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*Schedule 3.*

Description of disease.	Description of process.
Anthrax.....	Handling of wool, hair, bristles, hides, and skins.
Lead poisoning or its sequelæ.....	Any process involving the use of lead or its preparations or compounds.
Mercury poisoning or its sequelæ.....	Any process involving the use of mercury or its preparations or compounds.
Phosphorus poisoning or its sequelæ.....	Any process involving the use of phosphorus or its preparations or compounds.
Arsenic poisoning or its sequelæ.....	Any process involving the use of arsenic or its preparations or compounds.
Ankylostomiasis.....	Mining.

<sup>1</sup> Section 20 requires the employee to give notice of the injury to his employer, stating "in ordinary language the cause of the injury and where the accident happened."